

Testimony Richard U. Sherman submitted to the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

February 16th, 2016

Good day Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Richard U. Sherman and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy as a member of the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission.

During one of President Clinton's State of the Union addresses, he recognized the outstanding rivers that helped settle the United States, naming the Connecticut River a "heritage" river for its role in that settlement. Since the Connecticut River forms the western border of my Town of East Windsor, I approached the Town about getting involved with a river project. As a result, the Town formed the American Heritage River Committee and charged the Committee to develop recreational resources for the residents along the Connecticut River and its tributaries.

In October, 1999, our Committee was involved with the first Source to Sea clean up of the Connecticut River. One of AHRC's first projects was the planning and completion of Volunteer Park on South Water Street on the bank of the Connecticut River. We then turned our attention to a major tributary of the Connecticut River, the Scantic River, which dissects our town from Enfield to South Windsor. The Committee/Commission has established a greenway trail along the Scantic River in the Connecticut Linear Park System and developed a 2.3 mile trail that we keep maintained. There we hold New Year's Day hikes and participate in CT Trails Day with a guided hike. The trails are open year round from dawn to dusk.

The River Commission has spent five years opening up the Scantic for canoeing and kayaking. Now that we have pushed for opening the river as a blueway, we want it to be safe for us to use. To that end, we have been testing the water for temperature and clarity. And this year, we joined with volunteers on the Connecticut, Scantic and Farmington Rivers, checking for e coli to gather data and notify those using the river as to the water safety of those rivers.

I have traveled the Connecticut River from beginning to the end. In 1963, with 3 others in 2 canoes, we paddled the Connecticut River from northern Vermont to Windsor Locks, CT. Then, in 1983, I left Windsor Locks in an 18 foot aluminum canoe arriving in Deep River to complete my journey on the Connecticut River.

East Windsor sees a lot of water as the Connecticut River flows from northern Vermont and New Hampshire, to mix with tidal waters from the Long Island Sound converging in East Windsor. I would like to help control the 'where' and 'why' of the high water and its impact on the land it touches. My sincere thanks to this committee for the opportunity to appear before you, and to speak of my desire to serve on the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission.